

CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)
External Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2004
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street
10th Floor CITT Conference Room
2 p.m.

Summary Of Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon. Luis Morse, Chairman
Miles Moss
Hon. Linda Zilber

Marc Buoniconti
Hon. James Reeder

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Bruce Libhaber

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nan Markowitz, Executive Director, OCITT
Nestor Toledo, OCITT
Patrice Rosemond, OCITT
Lourdes Gomez, MDT
Stephen Reich, CUTR
Peter Evans, Metro Aqua Cats
Pepe Valdes, OCITT

Virginia C. Diaz, OCITT
John Labriola, OCITT
Maria Arista-Volsky, COA
Lyn Harris, MDT
Jan Davis, CUTR
Sandra Melean, PWD
Jack Furney, OCITT

1. Roll Call

Mr. Morse called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Reeder moved for approval of the agenda; seconded by Ms. Zilber and carried without dissent.

3. Approval of Minutes (October 18, 2004)

Mr. Moss moved for approval of the minutes; seconded by Mr. Morse and carried without dissent.

4. Citizens' Comments

None

5. Reports/Old Business

a. CITT Vacancy Outreach Effort Cost Analysis

Ms. Virginia Diaz, OCITT External Affairs Director, provided committee members with the results of an analysis of the cost of the recent CITT recruitment effort per applicant per media type, based on responses to a question on the application. Because many applicants submitted an earlier version of the form that did not include the question, the cost per applicant was extrapolated from the sample that responded. The results were: \$334 per applicant for print and \$882 per applicant for radio. Overall, \$426 was spent per applicant.

Ms. Nan Markowitz, Executive Director, OCITT, said staff will provide a copy of the analysis to the Nominating Committee at its October 18, 2004 meeting.

A discussion followed regarding whether the recruitment process could be made less costly or more cost-effective. Options raised included eliminating radio advertising or limiting it to two weeks, or recruiting through homeowners' associations and other civic organizations in a given district. Staff noted that the Nominating Committee has complete control over the recruitment process, but the CITT and staff can make recommendations or present options. The Nominating Committee currently requires a 30-day recruitment using print and radio ads, with a 30-day extension in the event of an insufficient number of applicants.

Mr. Buoniconti joined the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Item 8C was taken up out of order. Stephen Reich of the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) delivered a slide presentation on the center and its transportation and transit research services. The presentation was the second in a series of presentations by educational institutions invited to discuss their services with the committee.

Lourdes Gomez, MDT liaison to the CITT, informed the committee that the department is reviewing the recommendations of a bus service study. Ms. Markowitz said David Fialkoff of MDT could present findings to the committee in January.

b. Monthly Surtax Distribution Report

Members were presented with the July figures for municipal surtax distribution. \$2.25 million was distributed to municipalities in July.

Ms. Markowitz informed the committee that discussions are under way between the County and the cities of Miami Gardens and Doral, which seek to receive surtax funding for local transportation projects. Both cities were incorporated after the adoption of the People's Transportation Plan ordinance in 2002, which called for distributing 20 percent of surtax proceeds only to municipalities existing at the time. Negotiations are focusing on distributing funds to new municipalities from the 80 percent County share. CITT members have expressed concern that this would reduce the funding available for PTP projects. The CITT will develop a list of recommended changes to the PTP ordinance, including this issue and others such as placing a 5 percent cap on the amount of surtax funds that municipalities can expend on administrative costs, requiring the PWD to maintain the same level of general fund support, the rollover of CITT Members following the election of new County Commissioners, and changing CITT attendance rules.

Peter Evans of Metro Aqua Cats informed the committee that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) commissioned a study on watertaxi service in December 2003. Mr. Moss proposed that the project manager at MPO make a presentation about the study at a future meeting of the committee. Ms. Diaz said staff will inquire as to whether proper protocol would allow the presentation prior to a formal presentation to the MPO.

6. Action Items

None

7. Citizens' Comments

None

8. New Business

a. Municipal Update on Maintenance of Effort

Ms. Diaz informed the committee that staff sent a letter to municipalities on Nov. 1 asking them to identify their transportation funding sources. Two municipalities have responded, with responses due by the end of the month. Of the 10 municipalities that had claimed a zero maintenance of effort for transportation funding prior to the surtax, two now claim some general fund support for transportation.

b. Maintenance of Effort Ordinance Language (oral report)

Members discussed a proposal to allow municipalities to use a five-year average as a baseline for maintenance of effort rather than 2001-02, if that year's transportation expenditures were more than 10 percent higher than the year before. CITT staff will study the legalities and implications of adopting such a change. Members also discussed the implications of distributing surtax proceeds to new municipalities out of the 80 percent county share, which could ultimately result in reducing the amount available to the county from 80 percent to 60 percent of total proceeds. The surtax ordinance prohibits the distribution of proceeds from the 20 percent municipal share to municipalities created after November 2002. Mr. Buoniconti suggested the CITT work with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on changing this part of the surtax ordinance. Staff will study whether distributing part of the county's 80 percent share to new municipalities would require an amendment to the PTP.

Mr. Moss requested a list of "donor" municipalities (those that contribute more in taxes than they receive in services) and their populations. This will help determine the impact of the incorporation of new municipalities.

Mr. Moss noted that the federal government is reducing the amount of money available for transportation. He raised the possibility of increasing the surtax from half a percent to a full percent. Mr. Buoniconti noted that there has been discussion of using the local option gas tax to supplement transportation funding.

By consensus, the committee agreed to move the discussion on proposed changes to the surtax ordinance to the Executive Planning Committee.

9. Announcements – Next External Affairs Committee

The committee canceled its December 13, 2004 meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

*****MINUTES ARE IN SUMMARY FORM*****

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